



The Asian carp could pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes fisheries, which are estimated to generate up to \$7 billion annually for our region.

The Western Basin of Lake Erie is shallow, warm, and home to spawning grounds and thus vulnerable to susceptible invasive species. We must take more aggressive action to prevent the encroachment of Asian carp.

The presence of Asian carp in the Wabash River in Indiana means we must be even more vigilant and develop a response plan that involves all paths of entrance into the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) that was passed by Congress makes available unprecedented resources for the protection of the Great Lakes. Of the \$475 million provided in fiscal year 2010 for GLRI, \$58 million was transferred and combined with about \$20 million from various federal agencies for invasive species protection.

In addition to the GLRI, I have proposed that the Water Resources Development Act include an authorization for a project to physically separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi Basin. Also, I am the lead sponsor of a \$5.2 spending item to complete construction of the Asian Carp Dispersal Barrier in Chicago and a \$400,000 line item to fund an accelerated study of physical separation.

I will continue fighting to ensure that funding is directed toward stopping this predator and protecting our valuable fishery.

To date, no self sustaining Asian carp population has been found in the Great Lakes system, but we must keep our guard up. You can follow the work of the federal agencies at [www.asiancarp.org](http://www.asiancarp.org).